2013: New Mexico was Dead Last

- In June 2013, New Mexico fell to 50th in the nation for child well-being.

NM children (ages 0-19) by race/ethnicity

**NM Children in Immigrant Families**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Data Type: Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>109,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>107,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>107,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>96,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>113,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 21% of all NM children live in immigrant families
- Of those children:
  - 85% are U.S. citizens
  - 55% have parents who are not U.S. citizens
  - 4% of all NM children are foreign-born

**What Matters?**

- Income/health gradient
- Language spoken at home & parental immigration status
  - Decrease: health, insurance coverage, reading proficiency, pre-K enrollment, high school graduation
- Maternal educational status linked to:
  - Increased educational attainment, insurance status, reading proficiency, pre-K enrollment

- Cascade of events
  - Social exclusion & poverty
    - Decrease: stress, toxic stress
  - Social exclusion
  - Social/economic

- Low birth-weight (8.8%; worsened)
- Children without health insurance (8%; improved) (3rd highest rate in nation)
- Children who are ‘food insecure’ (29%)

**Policy Matters**

“Systematic variation in social advantage is an important underlying factor in generating wide inequalities in health of Americans and their poor health relative to other economically advanced countries…”

Thus, there is an urgent need for policies to reduce social disadvantage through multi-dimensions and multi-level approaches.”
**Immigrant Related Policies: State-County Responses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Measures</th>
<th>Expand</th>
<th>Protect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restrict &amp; Contract</td>
<td>Exclude</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Business and drivers licenses
- Housing
- Employment
- Crime & human trafficking
- Forcing & deterring illegal immigration, crime & law enforcement
  - Increase “homeland/border security”
  - Local law enforcement working with ICE
- Deny public benefits to undocumented immigrants.
  - Penalizing state agencies & subcontractors from hiring "illegals"
  - Verification of legal status for public benefits
- Support integration & expand & protect rights
- Study & assess immigrant demographics and $ impact on state
- Expand public benefits (access based on residency not citizenship)
- Trade & tourism with Mexico
- Comprehensive efforts
- Civic engagement

Cacari Stone, L., García y Griego, M. & Rodríguez, P. Integration and exclusion: Understanding localized immigrant policies and their implications for health in the United States. (Under Review)

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**Alienation** = Tiered Social System

“What we have done politically is that we have created these tiers of human beings: Who has access to education? Who has access to work? Who has access to health care? Right. And it’s not even the documented and undocumented anymore. It’s that the undocumented have X amount of rights, the legal permanent residents have X amount of rights, the U.S. citizens have X amount of rights. And when we create those tiers of citizenship, those categories of human beings, people internalize that and people start to see undocumented immigrants differently.”

-Immigrant Rights Advocate


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**An Emerging Consensus on Causes**

- Growing and consistent literature across diverse domains: air and water, transportation, housing, economic development, education, and human services vary by place account for differences
- NM’s child education and health inequalities are partly explained by historical forces and current policies that concentrate low-income people, people of color, and recent immigrants in urban and rural/frontier areas that lack many of the most fundamental supports for health and well-being.
- Regional and local policies do not consistently focus on achieving equity by improving living conditions and life opportunities in the communities facing the worst conditions.
• Life circumstances
• The causes of causes
  – Historical-intergenerational trauma
  – Racism
  – Colonization
  – Lack of political will

Acknowledgements
• Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA)
• WK Kellogg Scholars in Health Policy Research
• Con Alma & Santa Fe Community Foundations
• New Mexico Office of Border Health
• U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission
• Kaiser Permanente Chris Burch Minority Leadership Program
• Immigrant families, community leaders, providers, policy makers